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(b) *Assignment to “interrupted” status.* A veteran’s case will be assigned to *interrupted* status when:

(1) VA determines that a suspension of services being provided is necessary; and

(2) Either:

(i) A definite date for resumption of the program is established; or

(ii) The evidence indicates the veteran will be able to resume the program at some future date, which can be approximately established.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3110)

(c) *Reasons for assignment to “interrupted” status.* A veteran’s case may be interrupted and assigned to *interrupted* status for reasons including but not limited to the following:

(1) *Veteran does not initiate or continue rehabilitation process.* If a veteran does not begin or continue the rehabilitation process, the veteran’s case will be interrupted and assigned to *interrupted* status, including:

(i) A case in *evaluation and planning* status;

(ii) A case in *extended evaluation* status;

(iii) A case in *rehabilitation to the point of employability* status;

(iv) A case in *independent living program* status; or

(v) A case in *employment services* status.

(2) *Unsatisfactory conduct and cooperation.* If a veteran’s conduct or cooperation becomes unsatisfactory, services and assistance may be interrupted as determined under provisions of §§ 21.362 and 21.364.

(3) *Services not available.* The veteran cannot continue the program because the necessary training and rehabilitation services are unavailable.

(4) *Prior to assignment to “discontinued” status.* A veteran’s case shall be assigned to *interrupted* status prior to discontinuance and assignment to *discontinued* status in all cases except as provided in § 21.182(d) and upon the veteran’s death. The purpose of assignment to *interrupted* status is to assure that all appropriate actions have been taken to help the veteran continue in his or her program before discontinuing benefits and services.

(5) *Absences.* The veteran is not entitled to be placed on authorized absence under §§ 21.340 through 21.350 while in interrupted status.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3111)

(d) *Reentrance from “interrupted” status.* (1) A veteran in *interrupted* status may be assigned to his or her prior status or other appropriate status, if he or she reports for entrance or reentrance into the prescribed program at the time and place scheduled for the resumption of the rehabilitation program.

(2) If a veteran in *interrupted* status fails to report for entrance or reentrance into the program at the appointed time and place, the veteran’s case will remain in *interrupted* status. The case manager will then determine whether there is a satisfactory reason for the veteran’s failure to enter a new or reenter the prior program. If the evidence of record does not establish a satisfactory reason, the veteran’s case will be discontinued and assigned to *discontinued* status.

(e) *Case management responsibility during a period of interruption.* The case manager shall maintain contact with the veteran during *interruption* and shall arrange for appropriate medical or other services the veteran needs to be able to enter or reenter a rehabilitation program or a program of employment services.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3107)

CROSS-REFERENCE: See § 21.324 Reduction or termination date.

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 2518, Jan. 23, 1987]

§ 21.198 “Discontinued” status.

(a) *Purpose.* The purpose of *discontinued* status is to identify situations in which termination of all services and benefits received under Chapter 31 is necessary.

(b) *Placement in “discontinued”.* VA will discontinue the veteran’s case and assign the case to *discontinued* status following assignment to *interrupted* status as provided in § 21.197 for reasons including but not limited to the following:

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(1) *Veteran declines to initiate or continue rehabilitation process.* If a veteran does not initiate or continue the rehabilitation process and does not furnish an acceptable reason for his or her failure to do so following assignment to *interrupted* status, the veteran's case will be discontinued and assigned to *discontinued* status. This includes:

- (i) A case in *applicant* status;
- (ii) A case in *evaluation and planning* status;
- (iii) A case in *extended evaluation* status;
- (iv) A case in *rehabilitation to the point of employability* status;
- (v) A case in *independent living program* status;
- (vi) A case in *employment services* status; or
- (vii) A case in *interrupted* status;

(2) *Unsatisfactory conduct and cooperation.* When a veteran's conduct or cooperation becomes unsatisfactory, services and assistance may be discontinued and assigned to *discontinued* status as determined under provisions of §§21.362 and 21.364.

(3) *Eligibility and entitlement.* Unless the veteran desires employment assistance, the veteran's case will be discontinued and assigned to *discontinued* status when:

- (i) The veteran reaches the basic twelve-year termination date, and there is no basis for extension; or
- (ii) The veteran has used 48 months of entitlement under one or more VA programs, and there is no basis for extension of entitlement.

(4) *Medical and related problems.* A veteran's case will be discontinued and assigned to *discontinued* status when:

- (i) The veteran will be unable to participate in a rehabilitation program because of a serious physical or emotional problem for an extended period; and
- (ii) VA medical staff are unable to estimate an approximate date by which the veteran will be able to begin or return to the program.

(5) *Withdrawal.* Veteran voluntarily withdraws from the program.

(6) *Failure to progress.* The veteran's case will be discontinued and assigned to *discontinued* status if his or her failure to progress in a program is due to:

(i) Continuing lack of application by the veteran unrelated to any personal or other problems; or

(ii) Inability of the veteran to benefit from rehabilitation services despite the best efforts of VA and the veteran.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3108, 3111)

(7) *Special review of proposed discontinuance action.* The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&C) Officer shall review each case in which discontinuance is being considered for a veteran with a service-connected disability rated 50 percent or more disabling. The VR&C Officer may utilize existing resources to assist in the review, including referral to the Vocational Rehabilitation Panel (VRP).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a)(1))

(c) *Termination of "discontinued" status.* Except as noted in paragraph (c)(3) of this section assignment of the veteran's case to the same status from which the veteran was discontinued or to a different one requires that VA first find:

(1) The reason for the discontinuance has been removed; and

(2) VA has redetermined his or her eligibility and entitlement under Chapter 31.

(3) In addition to the criteria described in paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this section a veteran placed into *discontinued* status as a result of a finding of unsatisfactory conduct or cooperation under §§21.362 and 21.364 must also meet the requirements for reentrance into a rehabilitation program found in §21.364.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3111)

(d) *Follow-up of a cases placed in "discontinued" status.* VA shall establish appropriate procedures to follow up on cases which have been placed in *discontinued* status, except in those cases re-assigned from *applicant* status. The purpose of such followup is to determine if:

(1) The reasons for discontinuance may have been removed, and reconsideration of eligibility and entitlement is possible; or

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(2) The veteran is employed, and criteria for assignment to *rehabilitated* status are met.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3107)

CROSS-REFERENCE: See § 21.324 Reduction or termination dates of subsistence allowance.

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 2518, Jan. 23, 1987; 53 FR 32620, Aug. 26, 1988]

SUPPLIES

§ 21.210 Supplies.

(a) *Purpose of furnishing supplies.* Supplies are furnished to enable a veteran to pursue rehabilitation and achieve the goals of his or her program.

(b) *Definition.* The term *supplies* includes books, tools, and other supplies and equipment which VA determines are necessary for the veteran's rehabilitation program.

(c) *Periods during which supplies may be furnished.* Supplies may be furnished during:

- (1) Extended evaluation;
- (2) Rehabilitation to the point of employability;
- (3) Employment services; and
- (4) An independent living services program.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a))

(d) *Supplies precluded.* Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (c) of this section, supplies may not be furnished to a veteran who has elected, or is in receipt of, payment at the educational assistance rate paid under Chapter 34.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3108(a))

§ 21.212 General policy in furnishing supplies during periods of rehabilitation.

(a) *Furnishing necessary supplies during a period of rehabilitation services.* A veteran will be furnished supplies that are necessary for a program of rehabilitation services. For example, a veteran training in a school will be furnished the supplies needed to pursue the school course. If additional supplies are subsequently needed to secure employment, they will be furnished during the period of employment services as provided in § 21.214(d).

(b) *Determining supplies needed during a period of rehabilitation.* Subject to the provisions of §§ 21.210 through 21.222, VA will authorize only those supplies which are required:

(1) To be used by similarly circumstanced non-disabled persons in the same training or employment situation;

(2) To mitigate or compensate for the effects of the veteran's disability while he or she is being evaluated, trained or assisted in gaining employment; or

(3) To allow the veteran to function more independently and thereby lessen his or her dependence on others for assistance.

(c) *When supplies may be authorized.* Supplies should generally be authorized subsequent to the date of enrollment in training or beginning date of other rehabilitation services unless there are compelling reasons to authorize them earlier. Supplies may not be authorized earlier than the date the veteran's rehabilitation plan is approved by VA and the veteran is accepted by the facility or individual providing services.

(d) *Supplies needed, but not specifically required.* VA may determine that an item, such as a calculator, while not required by the school for the pursuit of a particular school subject, is nevertheless necessary for the veteran to successfully pursue his or her program under the provisions of § 21.156 pertaining to incidental goods and services. The item may be authorized if:

(1) It is generally owned and used by students pursuing the course; and

(2) Students who do not have the item would be placed at a distinct disadvantage in pursuing the course.

(e) *Supplies for special projects and theses.* The amount of supplies that VA may authorize for special projects, including theses, may not exceed the amount generally needed by similarly circumstanced nonveterans in meeting course or thesis requirements.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a))

(f) *Responsibility for authorization of supplies.* The case manager is responsible for the authorization of supplies, subject to requirements for prior approval contained in § 21.258 and other